(Ireland.)

Copy of ſo much of a LETTER from The Earl O'NEILL and the Earl of CLANCARTY, Poſtmaſters General in *Ireland*, to his Grace The LORD LIEUTENANT; dated 10th November 1807;—as relates to the Extenſion of the Buildings belonging to the General POST-OFFICE in *Dublin*.

——THE firſt point then, to which we ſhould wiſh to ſolicit Your Grace's attention, and to which we conceive much of the irregularity and want of ſyſtem is to be aſcribed, is, the ill conſtruction and want of ſpace in the Sorting and Letter Carriers Offices, and thoſe dependent on them, and the want of ſome minor offices and accommodation connected with the arrival and diſpatch of His Majeſty's Mails, &c.

It requires that a perſon ſhould have perſonally witneſſed the nature of the buſineſs performed in the Sorting and Letter Carriers Offices, to be aware of the material conſequence of ample ſpace, without which it is impoſſible to make a proper diſtribution of the perſons neceſſarily employed, ſo as to detect fraud and to promote regularity and diſpatch.

The Sorting Room in the Dublin Office is in ſhape ſo ill adapted to the buſineſs for which it is occupied, is ſo confined in point of extent, ſo ill arranged and ſo dark, that the officers on duty, even under the preſent inadequate eſtabliſhment, are conſiderably interrupted and impeded in their buſineſs, and every facility is afforded for the plunder of the property of individuals intruſted to the charge of the General Poſt-Office.

In addition to the extenſion of theſe Offices for the General Poſt, there is likewiſe a neceſſity for ſimilar Offices, though on a much ſmaller ſcale, for the Penny Poſt Eſtabliſhment; together with an Office and the neceſſary arrangements for ſorting, &c. for the Engliſh Mails, and management of the Government Expreſſes, the buſineſs of which, for the purpoſe of affording punctuality in the delivery and diſpatch of the Home Letters, we ſhould propoſe to ſeparate from the Inland arrangements.

Some few Rooms will likewiſe be requiſite for the attendance of Guards, Meſſengers, &c.

The late Poſtmaſter General Lord Donoughmore, in a letter written upon the eve of his retirement, to Sir Arthur Welleſley, ſtrongly urges that the attention of Government ſhould immediately be directed to this point.

The

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The neceſſity of extending the concerns of the General Poſt-Office in moſt of the reſpects we have mentioned, has been long felt; and, with the certainty that the buſineſs cannot be conducted with ſecurity and proper diſpatch without ſuch extenſion, the Poſtmaſters General conceive they cannot too forcibly preſs this ſubject on Your Grace's conſideration, or urge too ſtrongly the neceſſity of the immediate authority of Government being granted for effecting the required additions.

The ground belonging to the Public at the Poſt-Office is ſo confined, and already ſo covered with the neceſſary Offices, as not to afford ſpace for the propoſed extenſion of the building.

Whether it will be adviſable to purchaſe the houſes adjoining for the purpoſe of erecting ſuch additional Offices as may be required, or altogether to obtain ground in ſome other convenient ſituation whereon to build an entirely new Office, will no doubt be ultimately decided upon by Your Grace, with reference to which of the two arrangements ſhall appear moſt advantageous in point of economy and public convenience.

Upon the one hand, ſcarcely any ſituation for the eſtabliſhment of a Poſt-Office could be found more eligible from its local poſition, than that whereon the preſent Office is placed; and, as far as regards the main building, although more ſpace would certainly be deſirable, and although ſuch as the preſent building affords is not exactly diſtributed in the manner in which, in the event of erecting a new Office, we ſhould have the honour to recommend; yet it is ſufficiently convenient, and not altogether ill adapted for the execution of the buſineſs.

Again, of the ground adjacent in the rear which it would be requiſite to procure, about the half of it is occupied by the premiſes of the Incorporated Society under Captain Coleman, who, we are informed, is willing to grant a leaſe of it for 99 years from the 29th September 1807, at £. 100. per annum, and a payment to him of the difference between the rent now paid by the Incorporated Society, amounting to about £. 51. per annum, and the rent for the laſt year and a half, the whole of which payment would not exceed £. 80.

On the other hand, Captain Coleman will not grant a perpetuity of his land, or a leaſe of longer duration than 99 years; and conſiderable difficulty, it is feared, will be encountered in obtaining the reſt of the land required, and which is eſſential to the propoſed improvements: to aſcertain the facts relating to this point, inquiries are making for Your Grace's further information.

The increaſed value of the premiſes on which the preſent Poſt-Office is placed, is ſtated to us as an argument againſt continuing on the preſent ſite, it being alleged that the diſpoſal of the land and buildings of the actual Poſt-Office, would go a conſiderable length in reimburſing the expence of erecting an entire new building: For our part, however, we do not much rely upon this argument, as it ſeldom perhaps happens, that when Government is under the neceſſity of diſpoſing of its property it is able to derive much advantage from its bargains.

With reſpect to a new ſite in the event of change, it is neceſſary to ſtate, that the Commiſſioners of Wide Streets have made a propoſal to convey an ample plot of ground in perpetuity, at the rate of £. 1. per running foot, fronting to Carliſle Bridge, and occupying the whole length of D'Olier Street; a ſituation very little, if at all inferior, in point of locality, to that occupied by the preſent Poſt-Office.

And

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And we have likewiſe to add that, in the event of change, the Public will ſtill continue, during the erection of the new Office, to receive the benefit of having the buſineſs connected with the Poſtage of its Letters conducted in the exiſting Office; which could not, without increaſed confuſion, be the caſe, if an extenſion of the preſent building ſhould be determined on.

We are however, upon the whole, inclined to think, that if ground can be obtained at any reaſonable rate, adjacent to the preſent concerns of the Poſt-Office, and ſufficiently extenſive for the proper enlargement of the building, ſo as to furniſh the requiſite accommodation, it will be preferable to remain upon the preſent ſite, rather than by changing incumber the Public Revenue with the charge of an entire new Office.

A true Extract.

Iriſh Office,
May 10th 1808.

C. W. Flint.

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(Ireland.)

Copy of so much of a

LETTER from The Earl O'NEILL and the Earl of CLANCARTY, Postmasters General in Ireland, to his Grace The LORD LIEUTENANT; dated 10th November 1807;—

As relates to the Extension of the Buildings belonging to the

GENERAL POST-OFFICE IN DUBLIN.

Ordered to be printed 10th May,
1808.

220.

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